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Identification of Potential Candidate Genes and Pathways in Atrioventricular Nodal Reentry Tachycardia by Whole-exome Sequencing

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Keywords:	AVNRT, WES, Gene-based collapsing analysis
Abstract:	<p>Objective Atrioventricular nodal reentry tachycardia (AVNRT) is the most common form of paroxysmal supraventricular tachycardia (PSVT). Increasing data have shown familial clustering and involvement of genetic factors in AVNRT, and no pathogenic genes related to AVNRT have been reported.</p> <p>Methods Whole-exome sequencing (WES) was performed in 82 patients with AVNRT and 100 controls. Reference target genes, genome-wide association analysis (GWAS), gene-based collapsing and pathway enrichment analysis were performed. Protein-protein interaction (PPI) network was then established, WES database in the UK Biobank and one only genetic study of AVNRT in Denmark were used for external data validation.</p> <p>Results Among 129 reference target genes, 126 mutations were identified in the cases (MAF<0.001). Gene-based collapsing analysis and pathway enrichment analysis revealed six functional pathways related to AVNRT as with neuronal system/neurotransmitter release cycles and ion channel/cardiac conduction among the top 30 enriched pathways, then 36 candidate pathogenic genes were selected. By combining with PPI analysis, 10 candidate genes were identified, including RYR2, NOS1, SCN1A, CFTR, EPHB4, ROBO1, PRKAG2, MMP2, ASPH, and ABCC8. From the UK Biobank database, 18 genes from candidate genes including SCN1A, PRKAG2, NOS1, CFTR had mutations in arrhythmias, and the mutations in PIK3CB, GAD2 and HIP1R were in patients with PSVT. Moreover, one mutation of RYR2 (c.4652A>G, p.Asn1551Ser) in our study was also detected in the Danish study. Considering the gene functional roles and external data validation, the most likely candidate</p>

	<p>genes were SCN1A, PRKAG2, RYR2, CFTR, NOS1, PIK3CB, GAD2 and HIP1R.</p> <p>Conclusion The preliminary results first revealed potential candidate genes such as SCN1A, PRKAG2, RYR2, CFTR, NOS1, PIK3CB, GAD2 and HIP1R, and the pathways mediated by these genes, including neuronal system/neurotransmitter release cycles or ion channels/cardiac conduction, might be involved in AVNRT.</p>

Identification of Potential Candidate Genes and Pathways in Atrioventricular Nodal Reentry Tachycardia by Whole-exome Sequencing

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Abstract

Objective Atrioventricular nodal reentry tachycardia (AVNRT) is the most common form of paroxysmal supraventricular tachycardia (PSVT). Increasing data have shown familial clustering and involvement of genetic factors in AVNRT, and no pathogenic genes related to AVNRT have been reported.

Methods Whole-exome sequencing (WES) was performed in 82 patients with AVNRT and 100 controls. Reference target genes, genome-wide association analysis (GWAS), gene-based collapsing and pathway enrichment analysis were performed. Protein-protein interaction (PPI) network was then established, WES database in the UK Biobank and one only genetic study of AVNRT in Denmark were used for external data validation.

Results Among 129 reference target genes, 126 deleterious rare mutations in 48 genes were identified in the cases ($MAF < 0.001$). Gene-based collapsing analysis and pathway enrichment analysis revealed six functional pathways related to AVNRT as with neuronal system/neurotransmitter release cycles and ion channel/cardiac conduction among the top 30 enriched pathways, then 36 candidate pathogenic genes were selected. By combining with PPI analysis, 10 candidate genes were identified, including *RYR2*, *NOS1*, *SCN1A*, *CFTR*, *EPHB4*, *ROBO1*, *PRKAG2*, *MMP2*, *ASPH*, and *ABCC8*. From the UK Biobank database, 18 genes from candidate genes including *SCN1A*, *PRKAG2*, *NOS1*, *CFTR* had mutations in arrhythmias, and the mutations in *PIK3CB*, *GAD2* and *HIP1R* were in patients with PSVT. Moreover, one mutation of *RYR2* (c.4652A>G, p.Asn1551Ser) in our study was also detected in the Danish study. Considering the gene functional roles and external data validation, the most likely candidate genes were *SCN1A*, *PRKAG2*, *RYR2*, *CFTR*, *NOS1*, *PIK3CB*, *GAD2* and *HIP1R*.

Conclusion The preliminary results first revealed potential candidate genes such as *SCN1A*, *PRKAG2*, *RYR2*, *CFTR*, *NOS1*, *PIK3CB*, *GAD2* and *HIP1R*, and the pathways mediated by these genes, including neuronal system/neurotransmitter release cycles or ion channels/cardiac conduction, might be involved in AVNRT.

Keywords: Atrioventricular nodal reentry tachycardia; whole-exome sequencing; Gene-based collapsing analysis; neurotransmitter release cycles pathway; ion channels related pathway; Ion channel genes.

Introduction

Atrioventricular nodal reentrant tachycardia (AVNRT), caused by a reentry circuit involving fast and slow atrioventricular nodal pathways, is one of the most common types of paroxysmal supraventricular tachycardias (PSVTs) [1]. Although radiofrequency ablation has a satisfactory success rate in AVNRT, the precise anatomic structures that constitute the reentrant circuit are unresolved, and the specific pathogenesis has remained the subject of study over several decades [2, 3]. Because most patients with AVNRT experience the onset of their symptoms in early adulthood and lack other structural heart disease, AVNRT was once considered a congenital functional abnormality developed during cardiogenesis [4].

However, there are several reports of AVNRT occurring in twins and members of the same family [5-8], and first-degree relatives of patients with AVNRT present a hazard ratio of at least 3.6 for exhibiting AVNRT compared with the general population [8], indicating that genetic factors are involved in the etiology and mechanism of this disease. Familial Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome, another type of PSVT, has been well recognized as a disease that is partly caused by gene mutations, and several responsible mutations in the PRKAG2 gene have been identified [9, 10]. However, much less is known about the potential hereditary contribution to AVNRT, and no related pathogenic genes have been reported to date.

Whole-exome sequencing (WES) is an efficient strategy for identifying pathogenic genes involved in complex Mendelian and/or non-Mendelian diseases. However, factors such as lack of large multiplex families, locus heterogeneity, and incomplete penetrance have hampered such efforts to identify pathogenic genes in many diseases. Recent advances in

gene-based collapsing analysis might overcome some of these limitations [11]. In addition, rather than investigating associations between single genetic variants and a phenotype, pathway analysis of WES data interrogates alterations in biological pathways and helps us identify the underlying genes that cause disease. Therefore, we hypothesize that the application of this more comprehensive approach may help elucidate the genetic etiology of AVNRT.

To our knowledge, there are no published studies examining rare coding variants across the genome in AVNRT. In the current pilot study, we examined AVNRT using WES to detect and identify possible disease-causing genes by gene-base burden, pathway enrichment and protein-protein interaction (PPI) analyses.

Subjects and Methods

The study participants were identified among patients treated with radiofrequency catheter ablation at the Department of Cardiology of the Sichuan Academy of Medical Sciences and the Sichuan Provincial People's Hospital in the period from 2014 to 2017. A total of 100 unrelated ethnically matched healthy control subjects were recruited from the visitors to the Health Evaluation and Promotion Center of our hospital. Upon inclusion, blood sample tests, 12 lead electrocardiograms (ECGs), echocardiography and cardiac history were recorded. The control subjects were free of any cardiovascular diseases, arrhythmia, chronic anemia, diabetes mellitus, thyroid disorders, electrolyte disturbance, systemic immune diseases, malignant tumors or any other diseases known to cause arrhythmias. All subjects gave written informed consent for genetic screening. Ethical approval for this study was obtained from the ethics committee of the Sichuan

Academy of Medical Sciences and the Sichuan Provincial People's Hospital.

Intracardiac Electrophysiological Study

Baseline intracardiac electrophysiological studies included atrial stimulation (burst or extra stimulus pacing) and ventricular stimulation in cases. AVNRT diagnosis was established according to published criteria and pacing maneuvers as applicable [12]. Dual atrial ventricular (AV) node physiology was defined as a ≥ 50 ms increment in the AH interval after a 10 ms decrement interval during single-atrial extra stimulation or a ≥ 50 ms increment in the AH interval after shortening the pacing cycle length by 10 ms. If sustained AVNRT (lasting ≥ 30 s) was not induced, the same pacing maneuvers were repeated under isoproterenol infusion and withdrawal as previously described [13].

Next-generation DNA sequencing, Variant Calling and Annotation

DNA samples were extracted from peripheral blood using the QIAamp DNA Blood Mini and Maxi Kits (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Entire exon sequences were enriched by using a SureSelect Human All Exon kit V6 (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA, USA), and the libraries were sequenced on the Illumina HiSeq NovaSeq platform (Illumina, San Diego, CA, USA). The average read depth was 123, and on average, 96.4, 98.6 and 99.4% of exons were covered by at least 20 reads, 10 reads and 4 reads, respectively (Supplement Figure-1 S15). Qualified sequence reads were aligned to the human reference genome (NCBI GRCh37) using the Burrows-Wheeler Aligner (BWA; version 0.5.17; <http://bio-bwa.sourceforge.net/>). SAMtools (version 0.1.18; <http://samtools.sourceforge.net/>), Picard (<http://picard.sourceforge.net/>) and GATK (http://www.broadinstitute.org/gsa/wiki/index.php/Home_Page) were used for removing duplicated reads, realignment, and recalibration.

Potential single nucleotide variants (SNVs) and small insertions and deletions were called and filtered by using GATK3.7. Then, high-confidence SNV and indel mutations were annotated using snpEff (Version 4.2; <http://snpeff.sourceforge.net/>). Furthermore, all variants were annotated according to the control population of the 1000 Genomes Project (2014 Oct release, <http://www.1000genomes.org>), ExAC (<http://exac.broadinstitute.org>), EVS (<http://evs.gs.washington.edu/EVS>), and the disease databases of ClinVar (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/clinvar>) and OMIM (<http://www.omim.org>). Missense variants were evaluated as pathogenic variants when high damage effects were predicted by at least three out of five appropriate programs, including Sorting Intolerant from Tolerant [SIFT], Polyphen2-HDIV, MutationTaster and MutationAssessor.

Mutations in reference target genes

A total of 129 reference AVNRT target genes were selected to detect mutations in AVNRT cases and controls. The genes were selected based on the following criteria according to another pioneering study on gene mutations in AVNRT[14]: (1) PR interval-associated genes identified by genome-wide association studies [15], (2) genes selected based on cardiac expression levels [16], (3) plausible genes based on protein function and association with other arrhythmic diseases. Selected genes are listed in Supplementary Table S1.

Single-marker association analysis

We used GATK v3.7 CombineGVCFs to combine the whole-exome sequencing dataset with ethnically matched and unrelated subjects in the AVNRT cohort and the control group, followed by filtering with VQSR and PLINK1.9 (--geno 0.1 --hwe 0.0001) to obtain high-confidence variant datasets [17]. Furthermore, PLINK1.9 was applied to

check the multidimensional scaling (MDS) dataset based on raw Hamming distances for population stratification, identity by descent (IBD) calculation for sample pairs and Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium deviation for all markers. GWAS for the qualified high-confidence datasets was performed to compute the odds ratios (ORs) and p values in PLINK using *Fisher's* exact test for dichotomous phenotypes (cases versus controls for AVNRT). Finally, we used a genome-wide threshold for significance of $p < 1 \times 10^{-6}$. A quantile-quantile (Q-Q) plot was used to evaluate the resulting p values.

Gene-based collapsing analysis and pathway enrichment

We performed gene-based collapsing to combine the information on multiple deleterious rare variants into a single value per gene, with ethnically matched and unrelated subjects in the AVNRT cohort ($n=82$) and the control group ($n=100$). We defined deleterious rare mutations as nonsense, splice-site, indel and frameshift mutations. For statistical considerations, Fisher's exact test methods were preferred to calculate the gene-based collapsing. Two groups with minor allele frequencies (MAFs) below 0.1% and 1% in the Exome Aggregation Consortium (ExAC) and 1000 Genomes Project databases were calculated separately. A p value < 0.05 was considered significant. The significant genes were submitted to the KOBAS3.0 web server (<http://kobas.cbi.pku.edu.cn/kobas3>) to obtain the functional gene set Reactome Pathway enrichment. Then, the rich factor was calculated, and the top 30 enriched pathways are shown based on the corrected p value.

Construction of the PPI network

The Search Tool for the Retrieval of Interacting Genes database (STRING) (Version 10.0, <http://string-db.org>) was used to predict the relationships among the screened genes and

identify the most relevant genes [18]. Based on experimental data, database entries, and coexpression, PPI node pairs with a score of combination >0.4 (medium confidence) were considered to be significant. Then, Cytoscape software (version 3.7.1) was used to visualize the resulting PPI network.

Results

Clinical data of the cases

Our analysis included WES data from 82 cases and 100 controls. All AVNRT patients were diagnosed by electrophysiologic examination and underwent radiofrequency ablation. Among the 82 cases included in our analyses, the mean age at symptom onset was 51.5 ± 16.3 years old, and the ratio of females/males was 2.2:1. The median disease course was 4.0 years. Five patients had a history of syncope or approximate syncope, 3 had a familiar history or suspected familiar history of AVNRT, and no patients exhibited any structural heart disease. In the electrophysiological study, 9 patients presented no jumping between dual AV nodes, isoproterenol infusion was used in 6 cases to induce the onset of AVNRT. Except for one patient who exhibited slow-slow and one with slow-fast, all other cases exhibited typical slow-fast AVNRT, and all cases were treated successfully with radiofrequency ablation, with only one case relapsing, more details see Supplementary Table S2.

Referentially elated target gene mutations

Among the 129 reference target genes, 126 deleterious rare mutations in 48 genes were detected according to the definition of mutations with an MAF <0.001 in the ExAC and 1000 Genomes Project databases: 11 mutations in *KCNJ12* (n=11), 9 in *RYR3* (n=9), 8 in

RYR2 (n=8), 7 in *ZFHX3* (n=7), 6 in *ANK2* (n=6); 5 in *AKAP9* (n=5), *SYNE2* (n=5), *TRPM4* (n=5); 4 in *CACNA1D* (n=4), *CACNA1I* (n=4), *GNB3* (n=5), *MYH6* (n=4), *SCN5A* (n=4); 3 in *HCN4* (n=3), *KCNH2* (n=3), *SCN1A* (n=3), *SCN3A* (n=3); 2 in *CACNA1G* (n=2), *CACNB2* (n=2), *GJD3* (n=2), *NUP155* (n=2), *SCN4A* (n=2), *SCN10A* (n=2), *SYNP02L* (n=2); 1 mutation in 1 case in following genes: *ADRB2*, *C9orf3*, *CASQ2*, *CAV1*, *CAV3*, *ERG*, *HCN2*, *HCN3*, *ITPR1*, *KCNA4*, *KCNA5*, *KCND3*, *KCNN3*, *LMNA*, *PITX2*, *PKP2*, *PRKAG2*, *SCN1B*, *SCN4B*, *SCN9A*, *SLC8A1*, *SNTA1*, *SOX5* and *TBX3* (Supplementary Table S3, Figure 1). Among the above mutations in the listed genes, only 2 controls exhibited 2 mutations in *KCNJ12* and 1 mutation was found in one control subbed in each of *HCN4*, *ANK2* and *RYR2*.

As PSVT has a prevalence of 22.5/10 000 persons and an incidence of 35/100 000 person-years [19], and the sample examined in the current study was relatively small, we chose another definition of mutations with an MAF <0.01 in the ExAC and 1000 Genomes Project databases, and a total of 227 mutations in 64 genes were detected. The details of the mutations are presented in Supplementary Table S4.

GWAS study for common variants

Single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) were removed from the pre-imputation dataset if they exhibited an MAF < 0.01 or a *p* value for Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium (HWE) < 1×10^{-4} (Supplementary Figure 2). Association *p* values from the GWAS were reported in Q-Q plots and Manhattan plots (Figure 2, Supplementary Figure-2 S16). In the limited number of samples, SNPs with *p* values (*Fish* test) of less than less than 10^{-6} were shown in Supplementary Table S5.

Then, pathway enrichment was performed under the condition of including SNPs with

$p < 0.01$ according to KEGG and Reactome databases. As shown in Figure 2, the following four related traits were among the top 30 pathways in the two databases: (1) vesicle-mediated transport; (2) axon guidance; (3) the Ca^{2+} signaling pathway; and (4) ion channel transport, and there were 20 genes in both the KEGG and Reactome database analyses, including *ABLIM2*, *ASPH*, *ATP2B4*, *CACNA1G*, *DPYSL2*, *EPHA2*, *FES*, *MYL12A*, *NEO1*, *PLXNA4*, *PLXNB1*, *PLXNC1*, *ROBO2*, *RYR1*, *RYR2*, *RYR3*, *SEMA5A*, *SEMA6D*, *SLIT3* and *UNC5B* (Table 1).

Gene-based collapsing analysis and pathway enrichment for rare variants

We carried out gene-based collapsing tests under 2 frequency categories ($\text{MAF} < 0.01$ and $\text{MAF} < 0.001$) with p values of less than 0.05 were included. The Q-Q plots, Manhattan figures and mutations of the genes were shown in Supplemental Figure-3 S17 and Supplemental Tables S6 and S7.

In pathway analysis, mutations are associated with genes, and genes are placed into sets. The pathway enrichment analysis was performed using the Reactome database, and there were 517 and 343 pathways enriched with an $\text{MAF} < 0.01$ and $\text{MAF} < 0.001$, respectively (Supplementary Tables S8, S9). Among the top 30 enriched pathways, there were 6 related pathways ($\text{MAF} < 0.01$) and 2 pathways related to AVNRT ($\text{MAF} P < 0.001$) (Figure 3). In addition, 14 pathways other than the top 30 pathways exhibited potential functions associated with AVNRT with either an $\text{MAF} < 0.01$ or $\text{MAF} < 0.001$ (Table 2, 3).

From the above related pathways, 36 candidate pathogenic genes were selected: *ABCC8*, *AP1G2*, *ASPH*, *ATP2C2*, *BEGAIN*, *CD163*, *CFTR*, *COG4*, *COL5A1*, *COL4A3*, *CSF2RB*, *DOK4*, *EPHB4*, *EVL*, *GAD2*, *HEPH*, *HIPK2*, *HIP1R*, *KCNV2*, *LAMC1*, *LRFN4*, *MMP2*,

NOS1, *PIK3CB*, *PPFIA1*, *PRKAG2*, *PSMB11*, *ROBO1*, *SCN1A*, *SFTPA2*, *SLC9B1*, *SLC26A4*, *SLC12A4*, *SYT10*, *TCF7L1* and *TSPOAP1* (Table 4). The mutant information for these candidate genes was listed in Supplemental Tables S10 and S11. Among the candidate genes, *SCN1A* and *PRKAG2* were identified in arrhythmia diseases as reference target genes.

PPI network construction and analysis

To identify the most relevant genes among the above 36 candidate genes from gene-based collapsing analysis, the PPI network was constructed with STRING, which combined 64 reference target genes with mutations from the present study and 20 selected genes among the top 30 enriched pathways according to both the KEGG and Reactome databases in a GWAS. The 9 most significant genes according to scores and nodes were *NOS1* (score=6.795, nodes=8.5), *SCN1A* (score=6.071, nodes=10.5), *CFTR* (score=4.673, nodes=6.5), *EPHB4* (score=4.483, nodes=7.5), *PRKAG2* (score=4.335, nodes=8), *ROBO1* (score=4.241, nodes=6.5), *ASPH* (score=3.001, nodes=3.5), *MMP2* (score=2.665, nodes=4) and *ABCC8* (score=2.387, nodes=4.5). Remarkably, *RYR2* (score=14.88, nodes=23.5) was ranked as the first PPI node among the reference target genes with mutations in the present study, and the *p* value of the burden gene test was nearly 0.05 ($p=0.55$) with frequency categories (MAF<0.001). Considering the functional roles of the genes and previous studies, the most likely candidate genes were *SCN1A*, *PRKAG2*, *RYR2*, *CFTR*, and *NOS1* (Figure 4, Table 5), and the mutation information for the selected top 5 genes was illustrated in Figure 5 and listed in Supplementary Table S12.

External data validation

To verify the candidate pathogenic genes that we screened, we selected the UK Biobank resource for external data validation. The database was the most recent upload of the total exome sequencing data from 49,960 participants [20]. We searched for mutations in our candidate genes that were associated with arrhythmias in UK Biobank summary statistics database. Among these 37 candidate genes (36 genes from the gene-based collapsing analysis and *RYR2*), we obtained information about 33 mutations in 18 genes in this database of arrhythmia patients; these genes were *SCN1A*, *PRKAG2*, *CFTR*, *NOS1*, *PIK3CB*, *GAD2*, *HIP1R*, *ASPH*, *CD163*, *SLC9B1*, *ROBO1*, *EPHB4*, *KCNV2*, *PPFIA1*, *SYT10*, *COG4*, *MMP2* and *CSF2RB*. In particular, mutations in three genes, *PIK3CB*, *GAD2* and *HIP1R*, were present even in patients with PSVT (Figure 6, Table 6, Supplementary Table S13). To explore the certain phenotype which burden gene were most correlative, the enrichment analysis showed these three burden genes are most significant enriched in PSVT ($p=0.000174$) from 791 phenotypes category in UK Biobank (Figure 6, Table 7, Supplementary Table S14).

Because the disease information of UK Biobank was not specific enough, we chose the only known AVNRT genetic sequencing study to further validate our candidate pathogenic genes. The study, published in 2018, was carried out in Denmark, and 67 known arrhythmia target genes were detected in AVNRT cases by next-generation sequencing[14]. Among our candidate genes, *SCN1A*, *RYR2* and *PRKAG2*, there were 11 mutations in *SCN1A* and 3 mutations in *RYR2* detected in AVNRT patients in the Danish study, especially, a mutation in *RYR2* (c.4652A>G, p.Asn1551Ser, rs185237690) in our present study was also found in one Danish AVNRT case, which supports *SCN1A* and *RyR2* gene as candidate pathogenic genes in our study. The detail mutations information

shown in Table 8.

Discussion

This is, to our knowledge, the first study with the primary aim of investigating the genetic component of AVNRT using a WES approach. In the present study and an external data validation, genes such as *SCN1A*, *PRKAG2*, *RYR2*, *CFTR*, *NOS1*, *PIK3CB*, *GAD2* and *HIP1R*, responsible for neuronal system/neurotransmitter release or ion channel/cardiac conduction, are likely to be candidate genes and pathways for AVNRT. As this is only the beginning of the genetic investigation of AVNRT, further genetic functional studies are needed.

Recently, an increasing number of clinical reports have suggested that there may be a hereditary contribution to AVNRT [5-8]. However, much less is known about the hereditary contribution to AVNRT compared with that for Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome[9, 10]. A recent study involving the sequencing of 67 selected genes associated with arrhythmia in 298 AVNRT patients found the greatest number of mutations in sodium and calcium channels, indicating that AVNRT might be an electrical arrhythmic disease with abnormal sodium and calcium handling [14]. Among the reference target genes from the present study, many mutations were detected in *KCNJ12*, *RYR3*, *RYR2*, *ZFHX3*, *ANK2*, *AKAP9*, *GNB3*, *SYNE2*, *CACNA1D*, *CACNA1L*, *GNB3*, *MYH6*, *SCN5A*, *SCN1A*, *SCN3A*, *HCN4* and *KCNH2*. Most of these genes, such as *KCNJ12*, *RYR3*, *RYR2*, *CACNA1D*, *CACNA1L*, *SCN5A*, *SCN1A*, *SCN3A*, *HCN4* and *KCNH2*, encode ion channels, indicating that AVNRT was associated with ion channels. Interestingly, the causal gene of Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome, *PRKAG2*, was also identified in our AVNRT cases.

The autonomic nervous system is known to play an important role in the triggering and termination of AVNRT [21-24]. There are extrinsic and intrinsic components of the cardiac autonomic nervous system, and the extrinsic component is divided into sympathetic and parasympathetic systems, involving the main neurotransmitters of norepinephrine and acetylcholine, respectively [25, 26]. The intrinsic cardiac autonomic nervous system of the ganglionated plexi (GP) contains both sympathetic and parasympathetic fibers and is connected with a wide range of neurotransmitters [27, 28]. The AV node exhibits dense parasympathetic innervation, and changes in the cardiac autonomic nervous system could lead to arrhythmias [29]. Usually, sympathetic stimulation is used to facilitate the induction of AVNRT [21, 22]. However, the onset of AVNRT occurs at times of increased vagal tone, as the vagal tone increases the refractory period of the fast pathway, and a premature atrial complex may be conducted antegrade via the slow pathway with subsequent retrograde conduction, thus initiating AVNRT [23, 24]. In our present study, many mutations in genes involved in the neurotransmitter release cycle and neuronal system pathways, such as the neurotransmitter release cycle, acetylcholine neurotransmitter release cycle, serotonin neurotransmitter release cycle, and norepinephrine neurotransmitter release cycle, were present among the top 30 enriched pathways, the similar outcomes were also presented in GWAS analysis, indicating that neurotransmitter release affects the sympathetic or parasympathetic system and then induces AVNRT.

The autonomic nervous system also shows a close relationship with cardiac ionic conductance. Vagal nerve endings release acetylcholine, activate the ACh-activated K1 current (IK, ACh) and inhibit the funny current (If) and the L-type Ca²⁺ current [30]. In

contrast, sympathetic nerve endings release noradrenaline to increase the I_f and the L-type Ca^{2+} current and induce changes in intracellular Ca^{2+} handling[31]. In addition, many arrhythmias occur due to genetic mutations in ion channels themselves, and the mutations will affect the sodium, potassium, and calcium channels responsible for ion transport across the myocardial cell membrane. Then, the action potential is altered and induces arrhythmias [32-34]. In the present study, the pathways of ion channels and cardiac conduction were among the top 30 enriched pathways, and genes such as those encoding sodium channels (*SCN1A*) and potassium channels (*KCNV2*) were selected as candidate genes; in particular, *SCN1A* is regarded as one of the most likely candidate pathogenic genes. Mutations in ion channel genes might affect the conduction of AV nodes, and differences in conduction velocity will lead to dual AV node physiology and AVNRT.

There were three genes with mutations reported to be associated with arrhythmia among the candidate genes in the present study. The first was the *PRKAG2* gene, encoding the gamma2 regulatory subunit of adenosine monophosphate- activated protein kinase (AMPK), which was identified as the pathogenic gene of Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome [9, 10]. *PRKAG2* mutations induce the slowing of sodium channel inactivation and increase the likelihood of channel activation at more negative potentials [35]. The integral of the sodium current (total inward current) is a major determinant of conduction velocity, and increases in inward sodium current can speed up this process, resulting in a conduction velocity change in the AV node[36]. The second gene was *SCN1A*, which is primarily a neuronal gene. Nav1.1, a product of *SCN1A*, is present in various regions of the heart [37, 38]. *SCN1A* mutations are found in up to 80% of patients with Dravet

syndrome, a type of epilepsy observed in infancy, and sudden unexpected death results in 38% of all deaths in patients with a childhood onset [39]. Although the mechanism remains poorly understood, the sodium channel-dependent cardiac current is increased in *SCN1A-R1407X* knock-in mice [40], and autonomic dysfunctions such as abnormalities in heart rate variability (HRV), QT and P wave dispersion are observed in patients with Dravet syndrome [41], suggesting that some *SCN1A* variants might cause sudden death or lethal arrhythmia through neurocardiac or solely cardiac mechanisms. The third gene was *RYR2*, encoding cardiac ryanodine receptors (RyR2s), which are large intracellular Ca^{2+} channels that control the release of Ca^{2+} from the sarcoplasmic reticulum in cardiomyocytes[42]. Mutations in *RYR2* can increase the probability of channel open during diastole, resulting in excess diastolic SR Ca^{2+} release, and the increased SR Ca^{2+} leak during diastole can increase the frequency of spontaneous Ca^{2+} sparks, resulting in an untimely depolarizing inward current that triggers delayed after depolarizations and ventricular arrhythmia or atrial fibrillation [42, 43]. As mutations in these three genes have been proven to cause arrhythmia by experimental and clinical data, and were verified by the external data of UK Biobank and the genetic study from Denmark, it is reasonable for us to assume that the gene mutations identified in the present study could also cause AVNRT.

Among the other two candidate genes, the first was *CFTR*. It encodes a cAMP-activated chloride channel (cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator, CFTR) and is expressed mainly in epithelial cells of the respiratory and digestive tracts; mutations in this gene cause cystic fibrosis [44]. Subsequent studies demonstrated that CFTR acts not only as an ATP-gated chloride channel but also as a regulator of other ion channels, such

as amiloride-sensitive Na^+ channels, ATP channels and inward rectifier K^+ channels [45-47]. Recently, in cardiac CFTR-overexpressing mice, intracardiac electrophysiological studies showed marked slowing of conduction parameters, including high-grade AV block, with easily inducible non-sustained ventricular tachycardia following isoproterenol administration [48]. The second of these genes was *NOS1*. It encodes neuronal nitric oxide synthase (nNOS) and is a major isoform within the brain [49]. nNOS, together with its adaptor protein (CAPON), is also found in both intrinsic cardiac vagal neurons and postganglionic sympathetic neurons of the stellate ganglia [50, 51]. Moreover, the overexpression of nNOS increases acetylcholine release [52], and CAPON overexpression in myocytes attenuates the L-type calcium current, slightly increases the rapid delayed rectifier current (IKr), and shortens action potentials [53], which causes arrhythmia susceptibility. Thus, although the two candidate genes *CFTR* and *NOS1* have not been proven to directly cause arrhythmia, all the potential evidence listed above shows that these gene mutations can change some characteristics of atrioventricular node conduction by affecting the autonomic nervous system/neurotransmitter release or ion channels, which can lead to changes in cardiac depolarization, action potentials, cardiac conduction velocity, the refractory period, etc., and such changes will lead to dual AV node physiology and AVNRT.

As for the three candidate genes, *PIK3CB*, *GAD2* and *HIP1R*, were present even in patients with PSVT in the UK Biobank resource. However, there were no data showed any roles of them in the arrhythmia. *PIK3CB* encodes an isoform of the catalytic subunit of phosphoinositide 3-kinase beta ($\text{PI3K } \beta$), recent data showed PI3K signaling activation affected currents of multiple ion channels, including calcium and sodium channels, and

suppression of PI3K activation displayed a prolonged QT interval [54]. *GAD2* is a glutamate decarboxylase 2 coding gene, diseases associated with *GAD2* include autoimmune polyendocrine syndrome and stiff-person syndrome, among its related pathways are neurotransmitter release cycle and database. Diseases associated with *HIP1R* (Huntingtin Interacting Protein 1 Related) include expressive language disorder and cataract. At present, there is a lack of data about the three gene mutations in arrhythmia or AVNRT, which needs to be confirmed by other large samples genetic research or functional verification

Limitations

The major limitation of the current study is the small sample size as AVNRT with low prevalence in population. When studying rare variants, larger samples are needed to adequately show that certain genes or variants are associated with the disorder. Although we identified a few candidate genes, such as *SCN1A*, *PRKAG2*, *RYR2*, *CFTR*, *NOS1*, *PIK3CB*, *GAD2* and *HIP1R*, in AVNRT in the present study, the genes were not verified experimentally, and further research is needed to explore the potential mechanisms of these genes. Since AVNRT is caused by complex molecular mechanisms, a single pathway is not sufficient to explain the pathogenesis of this disease. Therefore, further experimental research is needed to confirm the current findings. Finally, the controls included in the present study did not undergo invasive electrophysiological examination, and it is possible that the controls were not completely devoid of AVNRT.

Conclusions

Our study identified a number of potentially disease-related genes, such as *SCN1A*, *PRKAG2*, *RYR2*, *CFTR*, *NOS1*, *PIK3CB*, *GAD2* and *HIP1R*, in the pathways of neuronal system/neurotransmitter release cycles or ion channel/cardiac conduction, which require further replication in larger cohorts and functional confirmation. Because the anatomic substrate in AVNRT remains unclear, our findings may provide insight into the molecular basis of AVNRT and provide a new view of AVNRT.

Conflicts of interest

The authors report no conflicts of interest. The authors alone are responsible for the content and writing of this article. The manuscript has been approved by the responsible authorities of the institutions where the work was conducted, and all authors have read the manuscript and approved its submission to your journal.

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Figure legends

Figure 1 The number of mutations and cases in referential target genes (A, MAF<0.01; B, MAF<0.001).

Figure 2 Manhattan plot (A) and pathway enrichment analysis of KEGG (B) and Reactome (C).

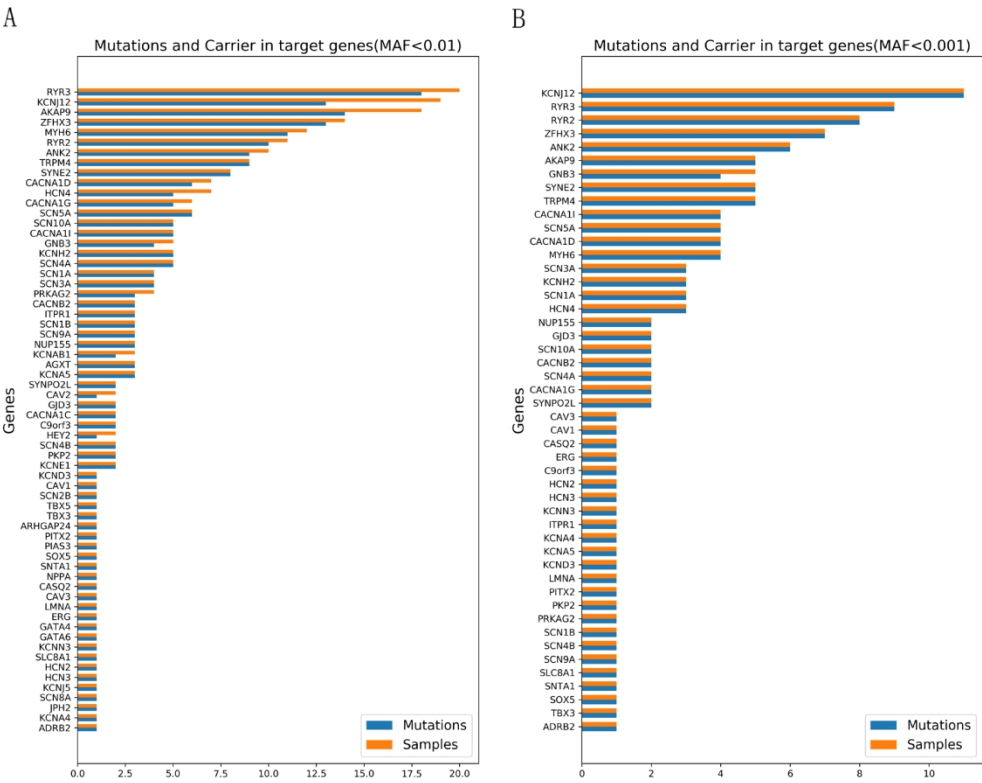
Figure 3 The top 30 pathways in Reactome pathway enrichment

Figure 4 Protein-protein interaction network. (A) The interaction network between the 36 candidate genes in gene-based collapsing analysis and the 64 reference target genes with mutations in the present study. (B) The interaction network between the 37 candidate genes (including *RYR2*) in gene-based collapsing analysis and the genes selected by pathway enrichment analysis in GWAS. (C) The interaction network with the genes selected by (A) and (B).

Figure 5 The mutations in the 5 candidate genes such as *SCN1A*, *PRKAG2*, *RYR2*, *CFTR* and *NOS1*.

Figure 6 Verification of candidate 37 genes in UK Biobank (A); The three of candidate burden genes, *PIK3CB*, *GAD2* and *HIP1R*, showed the most significant enrichment in PSVT ($p=0.000174$) among 791 phenotypes in UK Biobank (B).

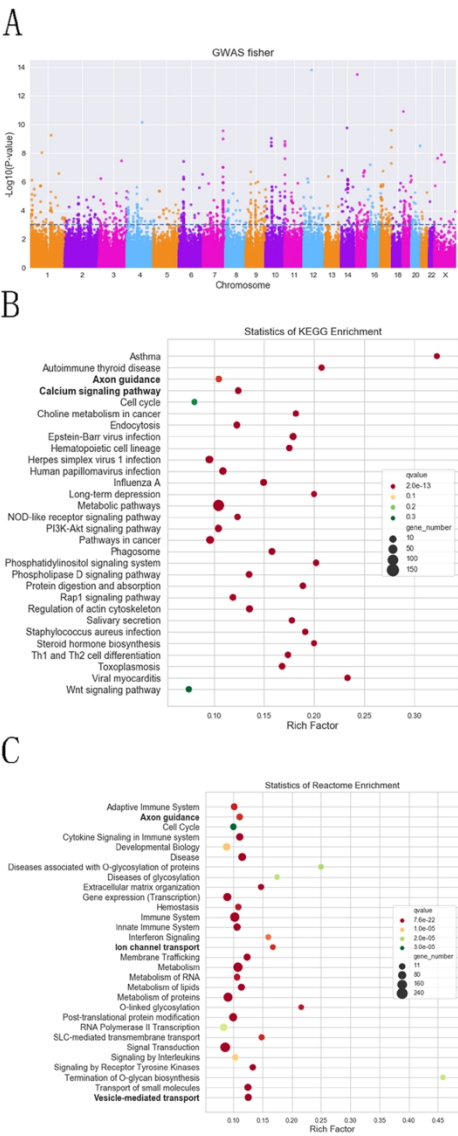
Figure. 1



The number of mutations and cases in referential target genes

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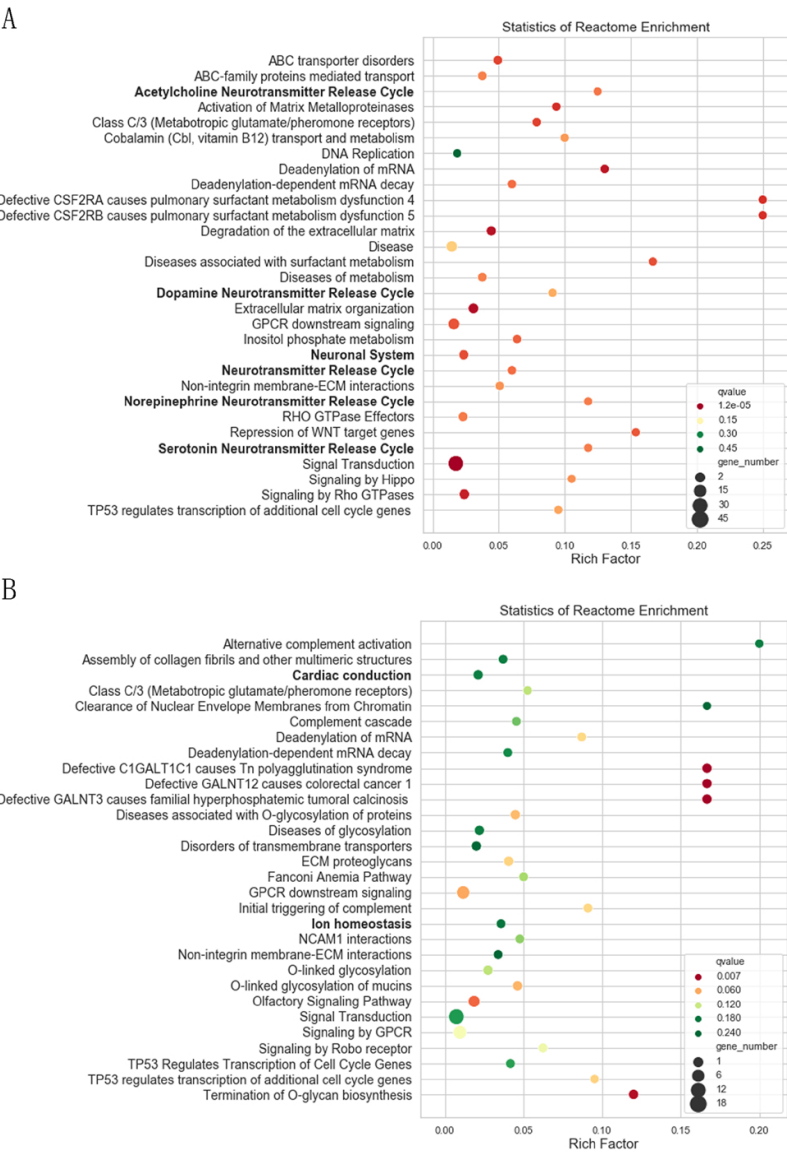
Figure. 2



Manhattan plot (A) and pathway enrichment analysis of KEGG (B) and Reactome (C).

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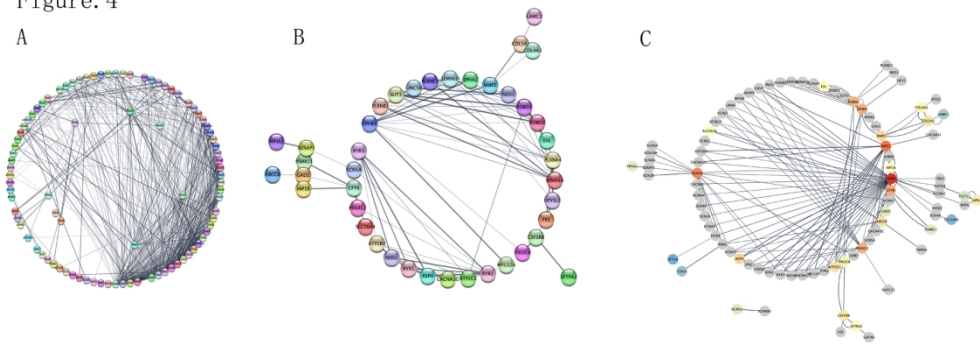
Figure. 3



The top 30 pathways in Reactome pathway enrichment

82x123mm (300 x 300 DPI)

Figure. 4



Protein-protein interaction network.
166x62mm (300 x 300 DPI)

A PRKAG2



The mutations in the 5 candidate genes such as SCN1A, PRKAG2, RYR2, CFTR and NOS1.

82x133mm (300 x 300 DPI)

Figure. 6

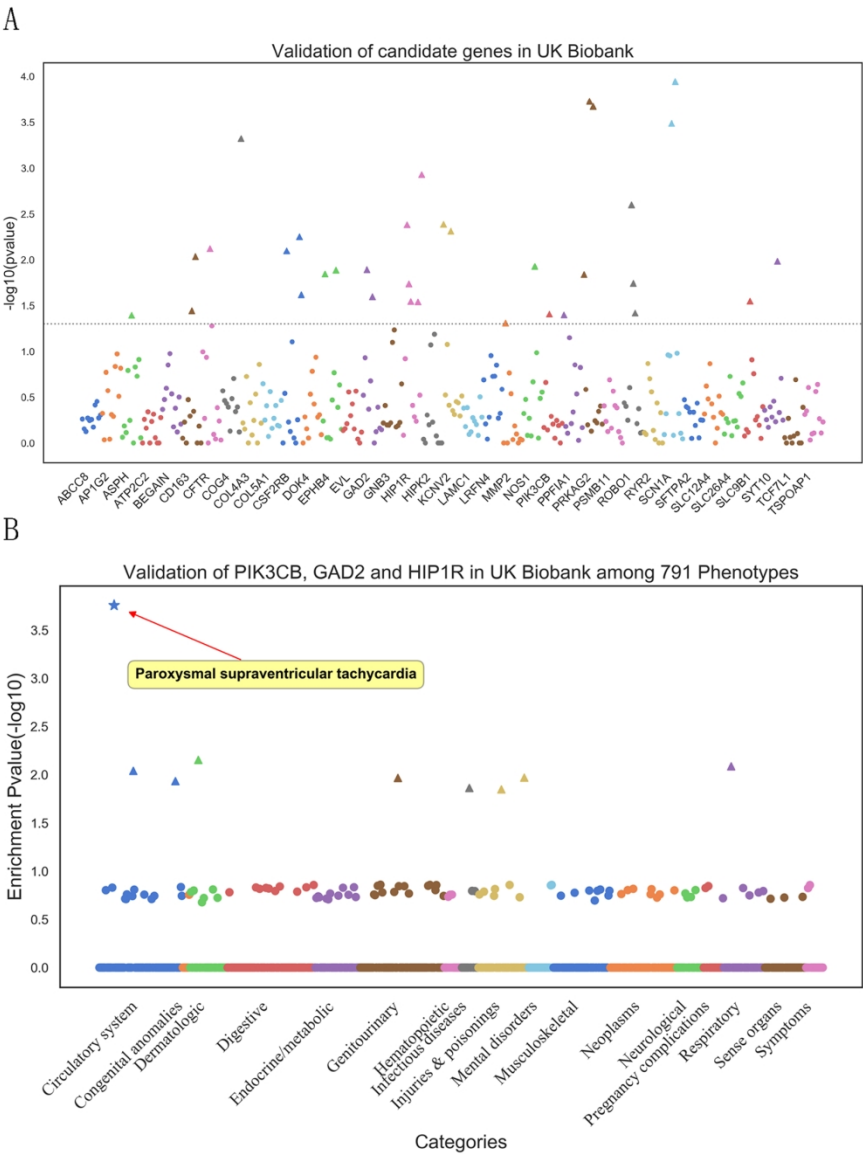


Table 1 SNPs in genes from the pathway enrichment analysis according to both KEGG and Reactome

Genes	A1	F_A	F_U	A2	P	OR	Functions	Hgv.c	Hgv.p
SEMA6D	G	0.414	0.225	T	1.10E-4	2.44	Intron variant	c.1646+105G>T	.
ROBO2	G	0.207	0.075	C	3.18E-4	3.23	Intron variant	c.109+121G>C	.
MYL12A	C	0.161	0.041	CGT	3.48E-4	4.51	Intron variant	c.199+192_199+ 193delGT	.
ABLM2	T	0.177	0.345	C	3.49E-4	0.41	Intron variant	c.838-131G>A	.
ATP2B2	G	0.000	0.060	A	7.05E-4	0.00	Intron variant	c.397+71C>T	.
ATP2B2	A	0.110	0.025	G	1.02E-3	4.81	Synonymous variant	c.1626C>T	p.Ile542Ile
ATP2B2	T	0.110	0.025	C	1.02E-3	4.81	Intron variant	c.1659+102G>A	.
UNC5B	T	0.120	0.027	C	1.05E-3	4.89	Intron variant	c.305-277C>T	.
NEO1	C	0.342	0.195	T	1.80E-3	2.14	Intron variant	c.1511+90T>C	.
NEO1	TA	0.348	0.200	T	1.90E-3	2.13	3-prime UTR variant	c.*52_*53insA	.
ATP2B2	T	0.183	0.325	G	2.62E-3	0.47	Intron variant	c.1417-186C>A	.
NEO1	G	0.342	0.200	A	2.77E-3	2.07	Synonymous variant	c.1779A>G	p.Lys593Lys
ASPH	C	0.518	0.359	A	2.80E-3	1.93	Intron variant	c.1108-121T>G	.
ABLM2	A	0.232	0.380	G	3.07E-3	0.49	Intron variant	c.915+26C>T	.
PLXNB1	A	0.043	0.000	G	3.51E-3		Non-coding transcript exon variant	n.5120C>T	.
DPYSL2	T	0.108	0.028	C	3.56E-3	4.22	Intron variant	c.936+251C>T	.
PLXNC1	T	0.043	0.000	C	3.65E-3		Intron variant	c.1062+161C>T	.
CACNA1G	CTG TGT GTG TGTT TGT G	0.049	0.140	C	4.41E-3	0.32	Intron variant	c.5782-165_5782- 164insTGTGTGTG TGTTTGTG	.
ASPH	C	0.488	0.340	G	5.26E-3	1.85	Intron variant	c.1346-79C>G	.
UNC5B	T	0.134	0.050	C	5.31E-3	2.94	Splice region variant	c.732C>T	p.Tyr244Tyr
UNC5B	A	0.134	0.050	G	5.31E-3	2.94	Intron variant	c.734-173G>A	.
UNC5B	G	0.134	0.050	A	5.31E-3	2.94	Missense variant	c.724A>G	p.Ile242Val
UNC5B	CTG	0.134	0.050	C	5.31E-3	2.94	Intron variant	c.1100-35_1100- 34insTG	.
UNC5B	T	0.134	0.050	C	5.31E-3	2.94	Intron variant	c.901+33C>T	.
ASPH	T	0.512	0.365	C	5.67E-3	1.83	Intron variant	c.1195-57G>A	.
UNC5B	A	0.128	0.045	G	6.47E-3	3.12	Intron variant	c.80-87G>A	.
EPHA2	CAG	0.041	0.000	C	6.82E-3		Intron variant	c.86-344_86- 343dupCT	.
RYR3	C	0.073	0.015	G	6.92E-3	5.18	Synonymous variant	c.2403G>C	p.Leu801Leu
RYR3	G	0.073	0.015	A	6.92E-3	5.18	Intron variant	c.3556+34A>G	.

RYR2	A	0.061	0.010	G	7.78E-3	6.43	Intron variant	c.13317+48G>A	.
RYR3	C	0.370	0.240	G	7.95E-3	1.86	Intron variant	c.5861-174C>G	.
PLXNA4	CAC	0.024	0.095	C	8.05E-3	0.24	Intron variant	c.3874+275_3874+2	.
	ACA							76insATGTTTGTG	
	CAA							TGT	
	ACA								
	T								
SEMA5A	C	0.352	0.223	T	8.65E-3	1.89	Intron variant	c.1599+327G>A	.
RYR1	G	0.012	0.070	A	8.74E-3	0.17	Intron variant	c.11689+68A>G	.
SLIT3	G	0.253	0.383	A	9.35E-3	0.55	Intron variant	c.1459+4296C>T	.
RYR2	G	0.438	0.299	A	9.66E-3	1.82	Intron variant	c.9128+133A>G	.
FES	T	0.037	0.11	C	9.71E-3	0.31	Non coding	n.616T>C	.
							transcript		
							exon variant		
FES	A	0.037	0.11	G	9.71E-3	0.31	Intron variant	c.388-212A>G	.

Notes: A1, Allele 1 (usually minor); FA, Allele 1 frequency among cases; FU, Allele 1 frequency among controls; hgvc: human genome variation c.DNA; hgvp: human genome variation protein.

Table 2 Gene-based pathway enrichment according to Reactome (MAF < 0.01)

Pathways	ID	Input number	Background number	P-Value	Corrected P-Value	Genes
Neuronal System	R-HSA-112316	8	339	0.004	0.048	<i>ABCC8, PPFIA1, LRFN4, TSPOAP1, BEGAIN, GAD2, SYT10, KCNV2</i>
Neurotransmitter Release Cycle	R-HSA-112310	3	50	0.007	0.064	<i>TSPOAP1, PPFIA1, GAD2</i>
Acetylcholine Neurotransmitter Release Cycle	R-HSA-264642	2	16	0.008	0.068	<i>TSPOAP1, PPFIA1</i>
Serotonin Neurotransmitter Release Cycle	R-HSA-181429	2	17	0.008	0.072	<i>TSPOAP1, PPFIA1</i>
Norepinephrine Neurotransmitter Release Cycle	R-HSA-181430	2	17	0.008	0.072	<i>TSPOAP1, PPFIA1</i>
Dopamine Neurotransmitter Release Cycle	R-HSA-212676	2	22	0.013	0.096	<i>TSPOAP1, PPFIA1</i>
Glutamate Neurotransmitter Release Cycle	R-HSA-210500	2	23	0.014	0.100	<i>TSPOAP1, PPFIA1</i>
Axon guidance	R-HSA-422475	9	549	0.023	0.133	<i>EPHB4, LAMC1, MMP2, DOK4, CSF2RB, SCN1A, EVL, ROBO1, PIK3CB</i>
Cation-coupled Chloride cotransporters	R-HSA-426117	1	7	0.057	0.197	<i>SLC12A4</i>
Interactions of neurexins and neuroligins at synapses	R-HSA-6794361	2	57	0.070	0.212	<i>BEGAIN, SYT10</i>
Protein-protein interactions at synapses	R-HSA-6794362	2	57	0.070	0.212	<i>BEGAIN, SYT10</i>
SALM protein interactions at the synapses	R-HSA-8849932	1	21	0.149	0.284	<i>LRFN4</i>
Potassium Channels	R-HSA-1296071	2	99	0.169	0.300	<i>ABCC8, KCNV2</i>
Metal ion SLC transporters	R-HSA-425410	1	25	0.174	0.304	<i>HEPH</i>
Transmission across Chemical Synapses	R-HSA-112315	3	208	0.201	0.329	<i>TSPOAP1, PPFIA1, GAD2</i>
Inwardly rectifying K ⁺ channels	R-HSA-1296065	1	31	0.209	0.334	<i>ABCC8</i>
Vesicle-mediated transport	R-HSA-5653656	6	573	0.251	0.369	<i>APIG2, CD163, CFTR, PRKAG2, HIP1R, COG4</i>
Voltage gated Potassium channels	R-HSA-1296072	1	43	0.276	0.389	<i>KCNV2</i>
Cardiac conduction	R-HSA-5576891	2	141	0.281	0.393	<i>SCN1A, NOS1</i>
Ion homeostasis	R-HSA-5578775	1	56	0.342	0.439	<i>NOS1</i>

Ca ²⁺ pathway	R-HSA-4086398	1	61	0.366	0.456	<i>TCF7L1</i>
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Table 3 Gene-based pathway enrichment according to Reactome (MAF < 0.001)

Pathways	ID	Input number	Background number	P-Value e	Corrected P-Value	Genes
Cardiac conduction	R-HSA-5576891	3	141	0.0246	0.177	<i>HIPK2, NOS1, ASPH</i>
Ion homeostasis	R-HSA-5578775	2	56	0.026	0.179	<i>NOS1, ASPH</i>
Axon guidance	R-HSA-422475	6	549	0.034	0.191	<i>COL4A3, EPHB4, PSMB11, COL5A1, EVL, ROBO1</i>
Ion channel transport	R-HSA-983712	3	211	0.066	0.229	<i>SLC9B1, ATP2C2, ASPH</i>
SALM protein interactions at the synapses	R-HSA-8849932	1	21	0.091	0.261	<i>LRFN4</i>
Ion transport by P-type ATPases	R-HSA-936837	1	57	0.222	0.379	<i>ATP2C2</i>
Transport of inorganic cations/ anions and amino acids/oligopeptides	R-HSA-425393	1	100	0.354	0.486	<i>SLC26A4</i>
Neuronal System	R-HSA-112316	1	339	0.771	0.800	<i>LRFN4</i>
Vesicle-mediated transport	R-HSA-5653656	1	573	0.918	0.9236	<i>CD163</i>

Table 4 Gene-based burden results for candidate genes

Gene	MAF<0.01				MAF<0.001			
	OR	P value	Cases	Controls	OR	P value	Cases	Controls
CFTR	4.67	4.546E-6	68	51	1.89	2.570E-1	6	4
EVL	NA*	4.352E-5	12	0	NA	4.352E-05	12	0
HIP1R	NA	3.256E-3	7	0	NA	2.016E-1	2	0
ABCC8	NA	7.539E-3	6	0	NA	8.961E-2	3	0
COG4	9.24	1.629E-2	7	1	NA	8.961E-2	3	0
LAMC1	9.24	1.629E-2	7	1	1.22	6.995E-1	1	1
AP1G2	9.24	1.629E-2	7	1	NA	4.505E-1	1	0
GAD2	NA	1.733E-2	5	0	NA	4.505E-1	1	0
CSF2RB	NA	1.733E-2	5	0	NA	2.016E-1	2	0
BEGAIN	NA	1.733E-2	5	0	NA	8.961E-2	3	0
SYT10	NA	1.733E-2	5	0	NA	4.505E-1	1	0
LRFN4	NA	1.733E-2	5	0	NA	1.733E-2	5	0
NOS1	1.95	2.000E-2	42	35	1.93	2.337E-2	39	32
SLC12A4	5.	2.433E-2	8	2	3.18	1.489E-1	5	2
ROBO1	5.30	2.433E-2	8	2	9.24	1.628E-2	7	1
SFTPA2	3.26	2.447E-2	12	5	5.01	9.055E-3	11	3
TSPOAP1	3.99	3.123E-2	9	3	1.66	3.9110E-1	4	3
KCNV2	7.82	3.324E-2	6	1	2.48	4.257E-1	2	1
PIK3CB	7.82	3.324E-2	6	1	2.48	4.257E-1	2	1
CD163	NA	3.955E-2	4	0	NA	3.955E-2	4	0
PRKAG2	NA	3.955E-2	4	0	NA	4.505E-1	1	0
DOK4	NA	3.955E-2	4	0	NA	2.016E-1	2	0
HEPH	NA	3.955E-2	4	0	NA	2.016E-1	2	0
SCN1A	NA	3.955E-2	4	0	NA	8.961E-2	3	0
PPFIA1	NA	3.955E-2	4	0	NA	8.961E-2	3	0
EPHB4	4.57	4.592E-2	7	2	7.82	3.324E-2	6	1
MMP2	4.57	4.592E-2	7	2	5.08	1.284E-1	4	1
TCF3	4.57	4.592E-2	7	2	3.76	2.398E-1	3	1
COL5A1	3.50	5.570E-2	8	3	4.57	4.592E-2	7	2
ATP2C2	2.59	1.046E-1	8	4	7.82	3.324E-2	6	1
SLC26A4	2.55	1.606E-1	6	3	NA	3.955E-2	4	0
ASPH	2.55	1.606E-1	6	3	NA	3.955E-2	4	0
PSMB11	2.24	1.673E-1	7	4	NA	3.955E-2	4	0
RYR2	1.60	2.433E-1	10	8	3.50	5.570E-2	8	3
COL4A3	1.89	2.570E-1	6	4	NA	1.733E-2	5	0
HIPK2	0.94	6.424E-1	7	9	NA	1.733E-2	5	0
SLC9B1		1.00E0	82	100	2.93	3.021E-2	77	84

Note : * NA, not available as the number of cases or controls is zero; MAF, minor allele frequency.

Table 5 PPI network combined scores

Genes	Number of nodes in group 1	Total scores	Mean scores	Number of nodes in group 2	Total scores	Mean scores	Combined mean total scores	Combined mean number of nodes
RYR2	37	23.226	0.628	10	6.533	0.653	14.880	23.5
NOS1	12	9.121	0.760	5	4.469	0.894	6.795	8.5
SCN1A	18	10.844	0.602	3	1.297	0.432	6.071	10.5
CFTR	8	5.596	0.700	5	3.750	0.75	4.673	6.5
EPHB4	4	2.463	0.616	11	6.508	0.592	4.483	7.5
PRKAG2	14	7.370	0.526	2	1.299	0.650	4.335	8
ROBO1	3	1.958	0.653	10	6.524	0.652	4.241	6.5
ASPH	4	3.105	0.776	3	2.897	0.966	3.001	3.5
MMP2	4	2.741	0.685	4	2.589	0.647	2.665	4
ABCC8	8	4.278	0.535	1	0.496	0.496	2.387	4.5
ATP2C2	4	2.077	0.519	5	2.687	0.537	2.382	4.5
COL5A1	3	2.28	0.760	3	2.280	0.760	2.280	3
CSF2RB	2	1.819	0.910	3	2.340	0.780	2.080	2.5
PIK3CB	3	1.977	0.659	2	1.361	0.681	1.669	2.5
COL4A3	3	1.782	0.594	2	1.356	0.678	1.569	2.5
HIPK2	3	2.433	0.811	1	0.625	0.625	1.529	2
SFTPA2	2	1.841	0.921	1	0.917	0.917	1.379	1.5
HIP1R	2	1.800	0.900	1	0.900	0.900	1.350	1.5
EVL	1	0.925	0.925	2	1.503	0.752	1.214	1.5
SLC26A4	2	1.143	0.572	2	1.186	0.593	1.165	2
PPFIA1	1	0.933	0.933	1	0.933	0.933	0.933	1
GAD2	2	0.929	0.465	2	0.929	0.465	0.929	2
PSMB11	1	0.905	0.905	1	0.905	0.905	0.905	1

TCF7L1	1	0.625	0.625	1	0.625	0.625	0.625	1
LAMC1	1	0.553	0.553	1	0.553	0.553	0.553	1
KCNV2	1	0.926	0.926	NA	NA	NA	0.463	0.5
COG4	1	0.902	0.902	NA	NA	NA	0.451	0.5
SLC12A4	1	0.591	0.591	NA	NA	NA	0.296	0.5
SYT10	1	0.400	0.400	NA	NA	NA	0.200	0.5

Notes: group1 means the PPI network was constructed with 36 candidate genes from gene-based collapsing analysis and 64 referential target genes with mutations in the present study; group2 means the PPI network was constructed with 37 candidate genes (including *RYS2*) from gene-based collapsing analysis and 20 selected genes in the top-30 enrichment pathways with both KEGG and Reactome databases in GWAS analysis; NA, not available.

Table 6 The external data validation of candidate genes by the UK Biobank resource

Genes	Start position	End position	Number of Rare variants	MAC-cases	MAC-controls	Cases	Controls	P-value	Phenotype code	Phenotype name
ASPH	8:61503374:G:C	8:61651126:T:C	220	89.00	1663.043487	2570	42728	4.035E-2	427.00	Cardiac dysrhythmias
CD163	12:7479895:T:C	12:7502526:T:C	69	4	150.0004211	95	9405	3.605E-2	426.91	Cardiac pacemaker in situ
CD163	12:7479895:T:C	12:7502526:T:C	79	5	171.00	108	10692	9.246E-3	426.90	Cardiac pacemaker/device in situ
CFTR	7:117480105:C:T	7:117592658:G:A	197	14.00	932.09	95	9405	7.580E-3	426.91	Cardiac pacemaker in situ
COG4	16:70481032:T:C	16:70512433:C:T	62	4	151	93	9207	4.767E-4	427.50	Arrhythmia (cardiac) NOS
CSF2RB	22:36922267:C:A	22:36938476:G:A	92	4	234.00	108	10692	8.011E-3	426.9	Cardiac pacemaker/device in situ
CSF2RB	22:36922267:C:A	22:36938476:G:A	84	4	202.00	95	9405	5.619E-3	426.91	Cardiac pacemaker in situ
CSF2RB	22:36922267:C:A	22:36938476:G:A	79	5	219	104	10296	2.413E-2	427.40	Cardiac arrest and ventricular fibrillation
EPHB4	7:100803517:A:G	7:100826991:C:T	107	10	487.00	116	11484	1.433E-2	425.00	Cardiomyopathy
EPHB4	7:100805215:C:T	7:100826991:C:T	81	5	181.01	78	7722	1.302E-2	427.12	Paroxysmal ventricular tachycardia
GAD2	10:26216843:G:A	10:26245919:A:G	76	17	1590.00	276	27324	1.285E-2	427.11	Paroxysmal supraventricular tachycardia
GAD2	10:26216843:G:A	10:26245919:A:G	85	19	2030.00	354	35046	2.535E-2	427.10	Paroxysmal tachycardia, unspecified
HIP1R	12:122834989:T:C	12:122860524:G:A	144	11	472.00	108	10692	4.155E-3	426.90	Cardiac pacemaker/device in situ
HIP1R	12:122834978:A:C	12:122861041:T:C	291	24.00	1507.01	354	35046	1.837E-2	427.10	Paroxysmal tachycardia, unspecified
HIP1R	12:122834989:T:C	12:122860524:G:A	126	8	355.00	78	7722	2.860E-2	427.12	Paroxysmal ventricular tachycardia
HIP1R	12:122834989:T:C	12:122860524:G:A	249	17.00	1185.01	276	27324	2.887E-2	427.11	Paroxysmal supraventricular tachycardia
HIP1R	12:122834989:T:C	12:122860524:G:A	134	11	418.00	95	9405	1.179E-3	426.91	Cardiac pacemaker in situ
KCNV2	9:2717744:D:4	9:2729710:D:5	88	5.00	199.00	87	8613	4.110E-3	427.42	Cardiac arrest
KCNV2	9:2717744:D:4	9:2729710:D:5	91	5.00	218.00	104	10296	4879553E-3	427.40	Cardiac arrest and ventricular fibrillation
MMP2	16:55479557:C:A	16:55505425:G:A	53	2	91.00	78	7722	4.910E-2	427.12	Paroxysmal ventricular tachycardia
NOS1	12:117218074:T:C	12:117278099:C:G	272	143.00	3398.00	1468	42760	1.183E-2	427.20	Atrial fibrillation and flutter
PIK3CB	3:138655414:G:A	3:138759288:G:A	95	5	213.00	276	27324	3.915E-2	427.11	Paroxysmal supraventricular tachycardia
PPFIA1	11:70272251:C:G	11:70382137:C:G	73	3	137.00	78	7722	4.004E-2	427.12	Paroxysmal ventricular tachycardia
PRKAG2	7:151557224:G:A	7:151675419:C:T	38	2	51	78	7722	1.452E-2	427.12	Paroxysmal ventricular tachycardia
PRKAG2	7:151557224:G:A	7:151595452:C:T	36	4	52.00	87	8613	1.868E-4	427.42	Cardiac arrest
PRKAG2	7:151557224:G:A	7:151595452:C:T	41	4	62.00	104	10296	2.122E-4	427.40	Cardiac arrest and ventricular fibrillation

ROBO1	3:78600114:T:A	3:79018406:C:T	344	56.00	1702.02	1468	42760	2.524E-3	427.20	Atrial fibrillation and flutter
ROBO1	3:78600114:T:A	3:79018406:C:T	350	92.01	1700.02	2570	42728	1.813E-2	427.00	Cardiac dysrhythmias
ROBO1	3:78600114:T:A	3:78598929:T:C	118	8.00	344.01	93	9207	3.817E-2	427.50	Arrhythmia (cardiac) NOS
SCN1A	2:165991287:T:G	2:166041470:C:A	85	6	274.02	104	10296	3.253E-4	427.40	Cardiac arrest and ventricular fibrillation
SCN1A	2:165991287:T:G	2:166041470:C:A	69	6	225.02	87	8613	1.139E-4	427.42	Cardiac arrest
SLC9B1	4:102901162:A:T	4:102991714:T:C	47	17	736.01	104	10296	2.837E-2	427.40	Cardiac arrest and ventricular fibrillation
SYT10	12:33376837:G:A	12:33439521:A:G	46	3	97.00	116	11484	1.042E-2	425.00	Cardiomyopathy

Note: MAC: Minor allele counts.

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Table 7 Candidate Genes Enrichment Analysis for Phenotype Category in UK Biobank ($p < 0.05$)

Phenotype category name	Enrichment P value	$-\log_{10}(P \text{ value})$	Category name	Phenotype code
Paroxysmal supraventricular tachycardia	0.000174146	3.759	circulatory system	427.11
Paroxysmal tachycardia, unspecified	0.009124029	2.040	circulatory system	427.1
Aneurysm and dissection of heart	0.01165878	1.933	circulatory system	411.41
Other hypertrophic and atrophic conditions of skin	0.007023506	2.153	dermatologic	701
Nephritis; nephrosis; renal sclerosis	0.010817149	1.966	genitourinary	580
Intestinal infection due to <i>C. difficile</i>	0.0137383	1.862	infectious diseases	008.52
Anaphylactic shock NOS	0.014210121	1.847	injuries & poisonings	946
Opiates and related narcotics causing adverse effects in therapeutic use	0.01073407	1.969	injuries & poisonings	965.1
Bacterial pneumonia	0.008187189	2.087	respiratory	480.1

Table 8 Overlapped candidates gene mutations in an AVNRT study from Denmark

Our Present Study										Danish AVNRT Study							
Gene	Hgvs.c	Hgvs.p	Transcript	Functions	KD_EAS_AF	ExAC_EAS_AF	cases(N)	controls(N)		Gene	cDNA	Protein variant	Transcript	Translation	MAF ExAC	MAF D1K	Allele count
RYR2	c.4652A>G	p.Asn1551Ser	XM_005773224.1	missense	-	4.52E-03	1	0		RYR2	c.4652A>G	p.Asn1551Ser	ENST00000366574	missense	3.50E-04	5.00E-04	1
	c.4094C>T	p.Ala1395Val	XM_005773224.1	missense	7.90E-03	4.21E-03	2	4			c.1088T>C	p.Ile363Thr	ENST00000366574	missense	0.00	0.00	1
	c.7076G>A	p.Arg259Gln	XM_005773224.1	missense	-	7.00E-04	1	0			c.1113T>A	p.Leu372His	ENST00000366574	missense	1.00E-05	2.50E-04	1
	c.3143A>G	p.Asp1048Gly	XM_005773224.1	missense	-	-	1	0			c.1250G>A	p.Arg417Gln	ENST00000366574	missense	2.00E-05	0.00E+00	2
	c.6040G>T	p.Asp2014Tyr	XM_005773224.1	missense	-	-	1	0			c.2828T>C	p.Leu943Ser	ENST00000366574	missense	2.30E-04	0.00E+00	1
	c.5774T>C	p.Ile1923Thr	XM_005773224.1	missense	-	0.00	1	0			c.3251G>A	p.Arg1084Lys	ENST00000366574	missense	1.50E-04	7.50E-04	1
	c.11352T>G	p.Ile2784Met	XM_005773224.1	missense	-	-	1	0			c.5188T>C	p.Met1729Thr	ENST00000366574	missense	0.00	0.00	1
	c.13050A>C	p.Leu4950Phe	XM_005773224.1	missense	-	-	0	1			c.8161T>C	p.His221Thr	ENST00000366574	missense	5.70E-04	4.13E-03	1
	c.5932A>G	p.Met1975Val	XM_005773224.1	missense	-	2.34E-04	0	1			c.10468G>T	p.Ala3490Ser	ENST00000366574	missense	0.00E+00	2.50E-04	1
	c.5570C>T	p.Pro1857Leu	XM_005773224.1	missense	0.00	1.17E-46	1	0			c.10528C>A	p.Arg3510Ser	ENST00000366574	missense	3.00E-05	2.50E-04	1
	c.6092C>T	p.Ser2031Phe	XM_005773224.1	missense	-	1.16E-04	1	0			c.10846G>T	p.Ala3616Ser	ENST00000366574	missense	0.00	0.00	1
	c.9683C>A	p.Thr1228Ala	XM_005773224.1	missense	-	-	1	1			-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	c.5721G>A	p.Val1241Ile	XM_005773224.1	missense	2.00E-03	2.35E-04	0	1			-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	c.5176A>T	p.Asp1059Val	NM_001165963.1	missense	-	3.52E-08	1	0		SCN1A	c.3521C>G	p.Thr1174Ser	ENST00000303395	missense	1.77E-03	3.25E-03	2
SCN1A	c.3035G>A	p.Arg1018Lys	NM_001165963.1	missense	-	2.32E-08	1	0			c.1623G>A	p.Arg542Gln	ENST00000303395	missense	1.53E-03	1.75E-03	1
	c.2141T>G	p.Met714Arg	NM_001165963.1	missense	-	-	1	0			c.1199T>C	p.Met400Thr	ENST00000303395	missense	0.00	0.00	1
	c.135C>G	p.Asp435Glu	NM_001165963.1	missense	1.00E-03	8.09E-04	1	0			-	-	-	-	-	-	-

MAFD2K: 2000 Danish Exomes; ExAC, Exome Aggregation Consortium; MAF, minor allele frequency; NA, not available.